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ILLINOIS -- U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-III.) will be playing postman when he travels to Afghanistan and Pakistan to suurvey damage from last month's earthquake that killed 70,000 people.

As part of the trip with other members of Congress, Kirk will deliver letters for American troops at a mail processing plant in Kabul, his office said.

Letters with first-class postage can be dropped off at his office at 102 Wilmot Rd., Suite 200, in Deerfield, by Wednesday. The mail is guaranteed to reach soldiers by the holidays.

Kirk's office said he would be leaving within two weeks.